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**Remarks****Status of the Claims**

Claims 1, 2, 7-16 are pending. Claims 1, 2 and 7-16 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. We note that the Examiner stated that claims 1, 2 and 7-17 are pending and are rejected but applicants have determined that only claims 1, 2 and 7-16 are presently pending.

**Rejoinder of Group II**

The Examiner had restricted the invention into the two groups, where by Applicants had elected Group I and canceled claims 4-6 from Group II (drawn to various methods of treating diseases, classified in class 514 and various subclasses).

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 4-6 with the elected group because claims 1, 2 and 7-16 are now allowable.

**Rejection under Double Patenting**

Claims 1, 2 and 7-16 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 17-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,645,987.

Without stipulating to the substance of the rejection, Applicants herewith submit Terminal Disclaimers with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,645,987. This terminal disclaimer overcomes the rejection under double patenting.

**Conclusion**

By the above-cited terminal disclaimers, Applicants have overcome all the rejections of the outstanding Office Action. Hence, claims 1, 2 and 7-16 are in condition for allowance, which timely allowance the Examiner is respectfully requested to grant.

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**Authorization**

As this Amendment is being filed within the three-month period following the shortened statutory period for reply to the Office Action, the Commissioner is hereby petitioned for a three-month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to draw the required amount from Applicants' deposit account no. 19-0365. Should any further extension or any other fee become necessary to render this Amendment timely filed and to allow entry of the Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby petitioned for such extension and is authorized to draw the required amount from Applicants' deposit account no. 19-0365.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' representatives would assist the Examiner, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at anytime. Applicants request favorable consideration of the application and early allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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